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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/501,538	07/16/2004	Martin Edward Lee Pickford	PICKFORD-15651	6357
25628	7590	07/28/2008		
LAW OFFICES OF WILLIAM H. HOLT 12311 HARBOR DRIVE WOODBRIDGE, VA 22192			EXAMINER	
			PRONE, CHRISTOPHER D	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER			
			3738	
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
07/28/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary		Application No.	Applicant(s)
		10/501,538	PICKFORD ET AL.
Examiner		Art Unit	
CHRISTOPHER D. PRONE		3738	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 April 2008.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 20-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 41-43 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 20,21,23-27,29-33 and 35-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 22,28 and 34 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/29/08
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 1/28/08 has been entered.

Election/Restrictions

Newly submitted claims 41-43 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: they are directed toward a method of making an implant, which was never claimed in any of the previous sets of claims.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 41-43 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 4/29/08 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The applicant provides extensive arguments reiterating the point that there is a large difference in the concentrations of silver ions absorbed between the current application and the Rosenberg Patent. However this is not convincing because not all of the argued subject matter is present in the independent claims. The independent claims need to be amended to require the details of the composition. They need to recite the materials and their concentrations. The examiner maintains that the claimed materials are still present in the Rosenberg reference, which would then inherently have the same effects as that in the current application. As pointed out by the applicant the concentrations are much lower so it would have a lesser affect on the tissue surrounding the implant, but it would still have some affect. The applicant is advised to put this concentration including actual numerical values within the independent claims or quantify what he means by "effective" in suppressing infection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) The invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 20, 21, 23-27, 29-33, 35-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Rosenberg et. al. (5,185,075).

Rosenberg et al discloses an implant comprising a metal substrate that is anodized in phosphoric acid (col. 3, lines 35-39), forming a surface layer comprising a metal phosphate. Silver nitrate is then added to the solution thus forming silver phosphate (col. 5, lines 57-63) and consequently some silver phosphate in the titanium phosphate coating. These steps as disclosed by Rosenberg et al are essentially the same steps disclosed on page 5, lines 1-23 of the present specification, and therefore produce the claimed product. Please note that product by process claims are NOT limited to the manipulations of the recited steps, only to the structure implied by the steps. Therefore method steps such as "wherein the surface of the implant is highly polished before provision of the surface layer" are given limited weight because the structure of the product is the same as claimed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 38-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rosenberg et al (5,185,075).

Rosenberg as described above discloses the same invention, but fails to specifically recite that the surface layer is effective for at least 6 weeks. However since the term "effective" is a very broad parameter and is not specifically defined by the

specification the examiner is viewing this limitation as having any positive effect upon an infection. Therefore since the implant of Rosenberg comprises the same chemical elements it is obvious that the surface will be effective in suppressing infection for at least 6 weeks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 22, 28, and 34 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher D. Prone whose telephone number is (571) 272-6085. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Fri 8:30 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Corrine McDermott can be reached on (571) 272-4754. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Christopher D Prone
Examiner
Art Unit 3738

/Christopher D Prone/

/Corrine M McDermott/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3738